

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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Adelanto	Montclair
Apple Valley	Needles
Barstow	Ontario
Big Bear Lake	Rancho Cucamonga
Chino	Redlands
Chino Hills	Rialto
Colton	San Bernardino
Fontana	Twentynine Palms
Grand Terrace	Upland
Hesperia	Victorville
Highland	Yucaipa
Loma Linda	Yucca Valley

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WEST NILE VIRUS SEASON HITS SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

With the announcement by the West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, May 13, 2008, confirming a crow testing positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) from the Ontario area, San Bernardino County residents need to continue and or take precautions to prevent or eliminate mosquito breeding sites as we enter the 2008 West Nile Virus Season.

West Nile Virus is a disease spread by mosquitoes and incidentally to humans and horses, primarily. The majority of people who get infected with WNV will not experience any illness. Only a few will experience flu like symptoms. Individuals most at risk for the more severe form of WNV infection are those over the age of 50 or those who have lowered immune response due to disease or disability.

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West Nile Virus is here to stay and the only way to reduce the incidence of human infection is to reduce mosquito breeding sources. The San Bernardino County Public Health Department, Vector Control Program monitors and treats water sources that are breeding or have the potential to breed mosquitoes such as flood control channels, irrigation runoff, holding ponds etc. It is what Vector Control cannot see that causes the most problems, the majority of mosquito breeding sources are residential in nature; these breeding sites include green pools, ponds, old tires, buckets essentially anything that can hold more than a teaspoon of water in someone's yard or business. Due to the large number of foreclosures in San Bernardino County there is a significant increase in unmaintained or "green pools" that can breed thousands of mosquitoes in a very short period of time.

Aerial surveillance of the San Bernardino County Vector Control District discovered hundreds of "green pools" in backyards of both occupied and vacant homes. This surveillance coupled with citizen reports of breeding sources in your neighborhoods goes a long way to reduce these potential harborages for mosquitoes and West Nile Virus transmission to humans.

It is important that County residents understand how to protect themselves from mosquitoes and West Nile Virus so they can enjoy outdoor activities. County residents can **Fight the Bite** by doing the following:

- **Drain or Dump...**Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitoes lay eggs such as birdbaths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, clogged gutters, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.
- **Dawn and Dusk...**Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active.
- **Dress...**Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeved shirts that are loose fitting and light colored.
- **DEET...**Apply insect repellent containing DEET according to manufacturer's directions.
- **Doors...**Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace

screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitoes from entering home.

If you have questions or concerns or if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or you have standing water or green pools in your area, call San Bernardino County Vector Control Program at 800-44-ABATE (800-442-2283) or 909-388-4600. If you are in the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario, Montclair or Rancho Cucamonga call (909) 635-0307 for West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

You may also visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs/vectorcontrol or the California Health Services West Nile website at www.westnile.ca.gov for more information on Vector Control or West Nile Virus. To report dead birds call the California Department of Health Services at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (968-2473) or report on line at www.westnile.ca.gov.